

DroMOOC

Trajectory planning Advanced Level

Bézier and B-Spline curves: Example

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Introduction

Goal of this presentation

- Illustrate the use of the main properties of B-splines through a **simplistic** example
- Generation of a **feasible, collision-free** trajectory

Problem presentation

Problem statement

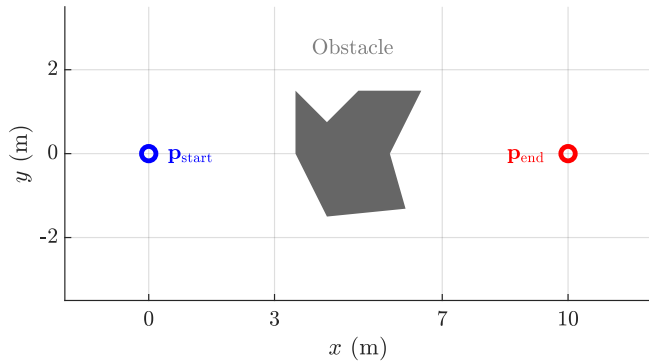
Considering a quadrotor initially at rest at $\mathbf{p}_{\text{start}}$, generate trajectory ζ of duration T such that

- The quadrotor ends resting at \mathbf{p}_{end}
- The trajectory is **collision-free**
- The ground speed of the quadrotor v does not exceed $v_{\text{max}} = 2\text{m.s}^{-1}$
- The angle of the quadrotor relatively to the ground α does not exceed $\alpha_{\text{max}} = 15^\circ$
- The rotation speed ω of the quadrotor does not exceed $\omega_{\text{max}} = 100^\circ.\text{s}^{-1}$

Hypothesis

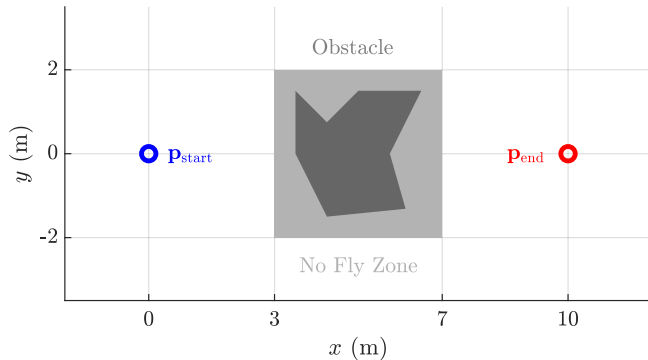
- 2D problem (constant altitude)
- No movement on the yaw axis

Problem presentation



Problem presentation

Obstacle bounded in a **convex no fly zone (NFZ)**, with security margins



Strategy

B-spline trajectory generation in 2 steps

- **Control points.** Choose the control points such that the **path** is smooth and collision-free, using the convex hull property
- **Knot vector.** Choose the duration of the **trajectory** so that it is feasible, by applying the convex hull property on the control points of its derivatives

Use clamped, uniform B-splines as they are easy to work with

Uniform B-spline

Uniform B-spline

A B-spline is said **uniform** when its knots are equally distributed

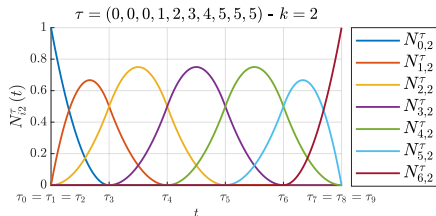
Knot vector replaced by 1 parameter, the step $\Delta\tau$ between 2 knots (and the first knot if $\neq 0$)

$$\tau = (\tau_0 \quad \tau_0 + \Delta\tau \quad \tau_0 + 2\Delta\tau \quad \dots \quad \tau_0 + m\Delta\tau)$$

Clamped B-splines

If the first $k + 1$ knots are equal and the $k + 1$ last knots are equal as well, then the B-spline is "clamped" to its first and last control points

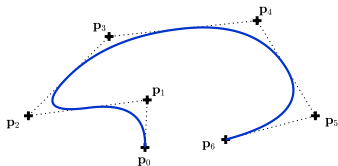
$$\tau = (\tau_0 \quad \tau_1 \quad \dots \quad \tau_m) = \underbrace{(\tau_k, \dots, \tau_k)}_{k+1 \text{ knots}} \underbrace{(\tau_{k+1}, \dots, \tau_n)}_{n-k \text{ knots}} \underbrace{(\tau_{n+1}, \dots, \tau_{n+1})}_{k+1 \text{ knots}}$$



"Uniform clamped" B-spline

If $\tau_0 = 0$ and the internal knots are equally distributed

$$\tau = (\underbrace{0 \dots 0}_{k+1 \text{ knots}} \quad \underbrace{\Delta\tau \dots (n-k)\Delta\tau}_{n-k \text{ knots}} \quad \underbrace{(n-k+1)\Delta\tau \dots (n-k+1)\Delta\tau}_{k+1 \text{ knots}})$$



Clamped B-spline curves

Derivative

The derivative of a B-splines curve of degree $k > 0$ **is a also a B-spline curve**, with the same knots, a degree $k - 1$ and $n + 1$ control points given by a linear combination of the original ones

$$\mathcal{B}'_{\mathbf{P},\tau} = \mathcal{B}_{\mathbf{P}^{(1)},\tau} \quad \text{with} \quad \begin{cases} \mathbf{p}_0^{(1)} = \frac{k}{\tau_k - \tau_0} \mathbf{p}_0 \\ \forall i \in \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket \quad \mathbf{p}_i^{(1)} = \frac{k}{\tau_{i+k} - \tau_i} (\mathbf{p}_i - \mathbf{p}_{i-1}) \\ \mathbf{p}_{n+1}^{(1)} = -\frac{k}{\tau_{n+k+1} - \tau_{n+1}} \mathbf{p}_n \end{cases}$$

Clamped B-spline curves

Derivative

The derivative of a clamped B-splines curve of degree $k > 0$ is a also a clamped B-spline curve of degree $k - 1$

- With n control points given by a linear combination of the original ones
- The same knot vector as the original clamped B-spline curve but with the multiplicity of the first and the last knots decreased by one

$$\mathcal{B}'_{\mathbf{P},\tau} = \mathcal{B}_{\mathbf{P}^{(1)},\tau^{(1)}} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{with } \begin{cases} \forall i \in \llbracket 0, n-1 \rrbracket \quad \mathbf{p}_i^{(1)} = \frac{k}{\tau_{i+k+1} - \tau_{i+1}} (\mathbf{p}_{i+1} - \mathbf{p}_i) \\ \tau^{(1)} = (\underbrace{\tau_k, \dots, \tau_k}_{k \text{ knots}}, \underbrace{\tau_{k+1}, \dots, \tau_n}_{n-k \text{ knots}}, \underbrace{\tau_{n+1}, \dots, \tau_{n+1}}_{k \text{ knots}}) \end{cases}$$

Path generation

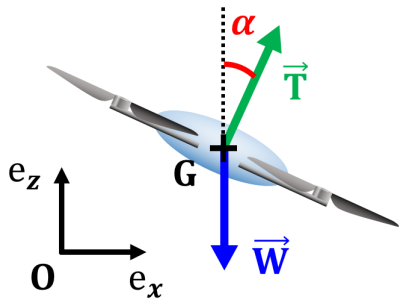
One way to generate a path: searching the **shortest** (in terms of **length**) **collision-free** B-spline curve joining the starting and the ending positions

3 parameters

- Degree $k \rightarrow$ differentiability class $\leq \mathcal{C}^{k-1}$
- Control Points $\mathbf{P} \rightarrow$ collision free curve
- Knots $\tau \rightarrow$ uniform clamped B-spline

Path generation - Continuity

(Very) Simplistic 2D drone model: thrust and weight only



$$\overrightarrow{OP} = x\mathbf{e}_x + z\mathbf{e}_z$$

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{z} = -g + \frac{t}{m} \cos(\alpha) \\ \ddot{x} = \frac{t}{m} \sin(\alpha) \end{cases}$$

$$\ddot{z} = 0 \Rightarrow t = \frac{mg}{\cos(\alpha)}$$

$$\ddot{x} = g \tan(\alpha)$$

Path generation - Continuity

Rotation speed limited \rightarrow drone attitude continuous

$$\alpha = \arctan\left(\frac{\ddot{x}}{g}\right)$$

If the trajectory ζ is \mathcal{C}^2 then α is continuous

If all internal knots have a unit multiplicity, ζ is \mathcal{C}^{k-1}

$$k = 3$$

Path generation - Continuity

- A clamped B-spline starts on its first control point and ends on the last one
- The derivative of a clamped B-spline is a clamped B-spline

\mathcal{C}^2 rest-to-rest trajectory

$$\mathbf{p}_0 = \mathbf{p}_{\text{start}}$$

$$\mathbf{p}_n = \mathbf{p}_{\text{end}}$$

$$\mathbf{p}_0^{(1)} = \mathbf{p}_0^{(2)} = \mathbf{p}_{n-1}^{(1)} = \mathbf{p}_{n-2}^{(2)} = \mathbf{0}$$

Using (1)

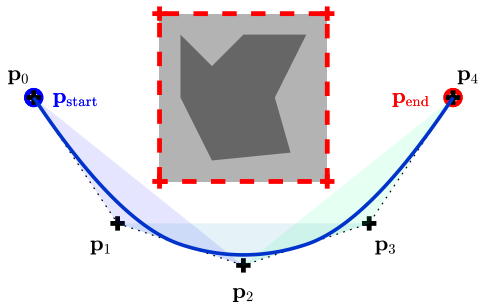
$$\mathbf{p}_0 = \mathbf{p}_1 = \mathbf{p}_2 = \mathbf{p}_{\text{start}}$$

$$\mathbf{p}_n = \mathbf{p}_{n-1} = \mathbf{p}_{n-2} = \mathbf{p}_{\text{end}}$$

Path generation - Obstacles management

Use convex hull property to guarantee the absence of collision

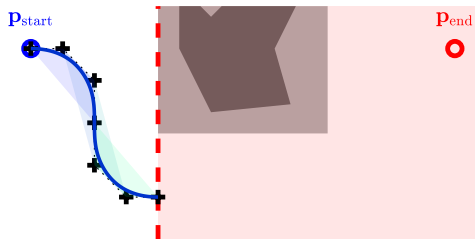
→ Forbid the convex hulls to contain any vertices of the convex NFZ



Path generation - Obstacles management

This constraint can be hard to check

→ simpler formulation with convex obstacle-free regions (more conservative)

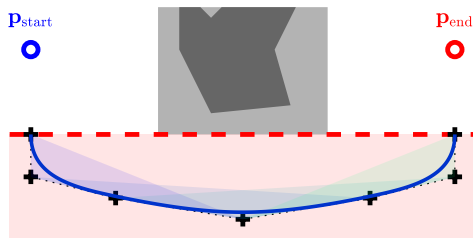


Region 1 $p_i^x \leq 3$

Path generation - Obstacles management

This constraint can be hard to check

→ simpler formulation with convex obstacle-free regions (more conservative)

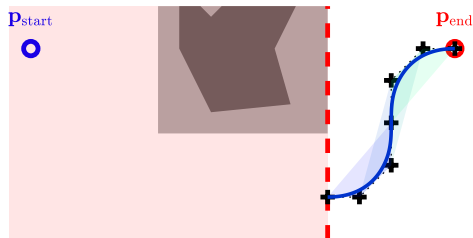


Region 2 $p_i^y \leq -2$

Path generation - Obstacles management

This constraint can be hard to check

→ simpler formulation with convex obstacle-free regions (more conservative)

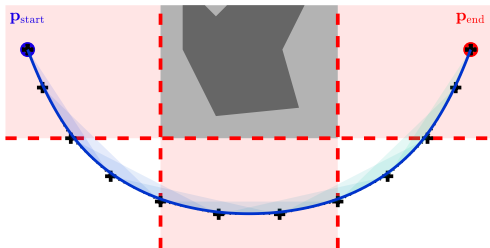


Region 3 $-p_i^x \leq -7$

Path generation - Obstacles management

Some control points are in the convex hulls of other control points in different convex, obstacle-free regions

→ These points are constrained in both regions



Region 1 & 2 $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p_i^x \\ p_i^y \end{pmatrix} \leq \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$

Region 2 & 3 $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p_i^x \\ p_i^y \end{pmatrix} \leq \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -7 \end{pmatrix}$

Path generation - Number of control points

- 3 control points on the starting position
- n_1 control points in the first obstacle-free region
- $k = 3$ control points in both the first and second obstacle-free region
- n_2 control points in the second obstacle-free region
- $k = 3$ control points in both the second and third obstacle-free region
- n_3 control points in the third obstacle-free region
- 3 control points on the ending position

$$n + 1 = 6 + 2k + n_1 + n_2 + n_3$$

For $n_1 = n_2 = n_3 = 0$,

$$n = 11$$

Path generation - Knot vector

Only looking for a **clamped, uniform** B-spline **path** for now

$$\tau = (\underbrace{0 \dots 0}_{k+1 \text{ knots}} \underbrace{\Delta\tau \dots (n-k)\Delta\tau}_{n-k \text{ knots}} \underbrace{(n-k+1)\Delta\tau \dots (n-k+1)\Delta\tau}_{k+1 \text{ knots}})$$

Fixed knot vector with **arbitrary step** $\Delta\tau$

$$\tau = (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 2, \dots, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9)$$

Path generation - Parameters and constraints

For a path of differentiability class \mathcal{C}^L

B-spline parameters

- $k = L + 1$
- $n = 2(L + 1) + 2k + n_1 + n_2 + n_3 - 1$
- $\tau = (\underbrace{0 \dots 0}_{k+1 \text{ knots}} \underbrace{\Delta\tau \dots (n-k)\Delta\tau}_{n-k \text{ knots}} \underbrace{(n-k+1)\Delta\tau \dots (n-k+1)\Delta\tau}_{k+1 \text{ knots}})$

B-spline constraints

- $\forall i \in \llbracket 0, L \rrbracket \quad \mathbf{p}_i = \mathbf{p}_{\text{start}}$
- $\forall i \in \llbracket 0, L \rrbracket \quad \mathbf{p}_{n-i} = \mathbf{p}_{\text{end}}$
- $\forall i \in \llbracket L + 1, L + n_1 + k \rrbracket \quad p_i^x \leq 3$
- $\forall i \in \llbracket L + n_1 + 1, L + n_1 + n_2 + 2k \rrbracket \quad p_i^y \leq -2$
- $\forall i \in \llbracket L + n_1 + n_2 + k + 1, n - L - 1 \rrbracket \quad -p_i^x \leq -7$

Path generation - Parameters and constraints

For a path of differentiability class \mathcal{C}^2 , with $n_1 = n_2 = n_3 = 0$

B-spline parameters

- $k = 3$
- $n = 11$
- $\tau = (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 2, \dots, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9)$

B-spline constraints

- $\mathbf{p}_0 = \mathbf{p}_1 = \mathbf{p}_2 = \mathbf{p}_{\text{start}}$
- $\mathbf{p}_n = \mathbf{p}_{n-1} = \mathbf{p}_{n-2} = \mathbf{p}_{\text{end}}$
- $\forall i \in \llbracket 3, 5 \rrbracket \quad p_i^x \leq 3$
- $\forall i \in \llbracket 3, 8 \rrbracket \quad p_i^y \leq -2$
- $\forall i \in \llbracket 6, 8 \rrbracket \quad -p_i^x \leq -7$

Path generation - Criterion

Infinity of paths verifying the constraints

→ Choose the best path according to a criterion

→ Reduce the **length** of the path

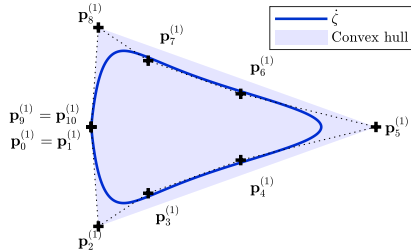
Length \mathcal{L} of the curve ζ given by

$$\mathcal{L} = \int_0^{n-k+1} \left\| \dot{\zeta}(u) \right\|_2 du$$

$\dot{\zeta}$ lies in the convex hull of its control points

→ Minimize the squared norm of its control points

$$J_1 = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left\| \mathbf{p}_i^{(1)} \right\|_2^2$$



Path generation - Optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{P} \in (\mathbb{R}^2)^{12}} & \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left\| \mathbf{p}_i^{(1)} \right\|_2^2 \\ \text{s.t.} & \begin{cases} p_0^x = p_1^x = p_2^x = p_{\text{start}}^x \\ p_0^y = p_1^y = p_2^y = p_{\text{start}}^y \\ p_n^x = p_{n-1}^x = p_{n-2}^x = p_{\text{end}}^x \\ p_n^y = p_{n-1}^y = p_{n-2}^y = p_{\text{end}}^y \\ \forall i \in \llbracket 3, 5 \rrbracket \quad p_i^x \leq 3 \\ \forall i \in \llbracket 3, 8 \rrbracket \quad p_i^y \leq -2 \\ \forall i \in \llbracket 6, 8 \rrbracket \quad -p_i^x \leq -7 \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Path generation - Optimization problem

Let be

$$\mathbf{x} = (p_0^x \quad p_1^x \quad \dots \quad p_n^x \quad p_0^y \quad p_1^y \quad \dots \quad p_n^y)^\top$$

Then $J_1 = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{H}_1 \mathbf{x}$, with $\mathbf{H}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\Delta\tau} \mathbf{Q}_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\Delta\tau} \mathbf{Q}_1 \end{pmatrix}^\top \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\Delta\tau} \mathbf{Q}_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\Delta\tau} \mathbf{Q}_1 \end{pmatrix}$ and \mathbf{Q}_1 given by (1)

[illegible]

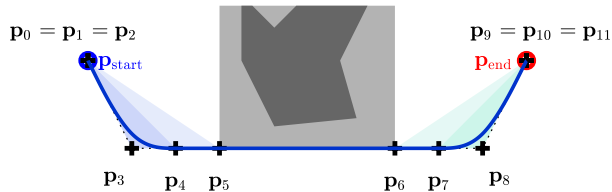
Path generation - Optimization problem

Problem (2) is a simple, small, convex QP problem

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{R}^{24}} \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{H}_1 \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} \begin{cases} A_{\text{eq}} \mathbf{x} = b_{\text{eq}} \\ A_{\text{ineq}} \mathbf{x} \leq b_{\text{ineq}} \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Path generation - Optimization problem

Result: **Collision-free path**



A bit sub-optimal (not the shortest path)
due to the simplified formulation

Path generation - Smoothing term

Smooth the path by adding a penalty on the jerk $J = \sigma J_1 + (1 - \sigma) J_3$

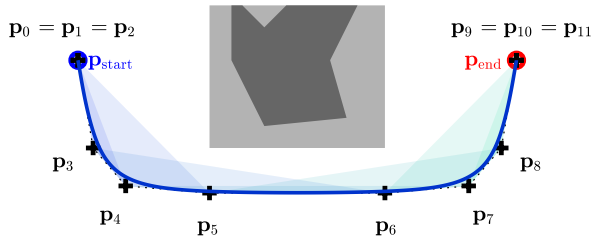
$$J_3 = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left\| \mathbf{p}_i^{(3)} \right\|_2^2 = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{H}_3 \mathbf{x}$$

with $\mathbf{H}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\Delta\tau^3} \mathbf{Q}_3 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\Delta\tau^3} \mathbf{Q}_3 \end{pmatrix}^\top \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\Delta\tau^3} \mathbf{Q}_3 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\Delta\tau^3} \mathbf{Q}_3 \end{pmatrix}$ and \mathbf{Q}_3 given by (1)

$$\mathbf{Q}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} -6 & 10.5 & -5.5 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1.5 & 3.5 & -3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 3 & -3.5 & 1.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 5.5 & -10.5 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

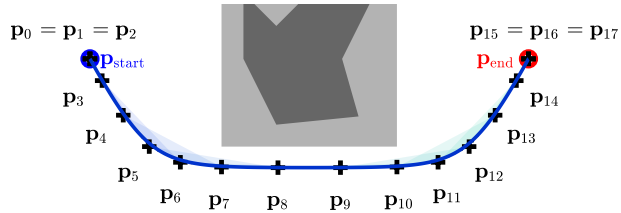
Path generation - Optimization problem

$$\sigma = 0.8$$



Path generation - Optimization problem

$$n_1 = n_2 = n_3 = 2, \sigma = 0.5$$

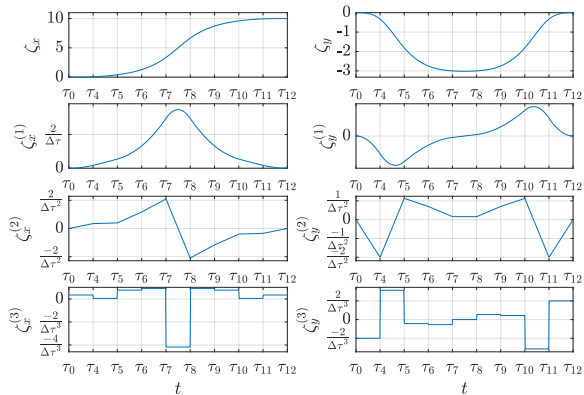


Trajectory duration

Transform the path into a trajectory by adding a duration

→ Choice of $\Delta\tau$

Path Derivatives



Trajectory duration

Specification

- $v \leq v_{\max}$

Feasibility

- $\alpha \leq \alpha_{\max}$
- $\omega \leq \omega_{\max}$

Translate into constraints on the derivatives
→ Then, use convex hull property

Trajectory duration

Acceleration

$$a = g \tan(\alpha) \text{ with } a = \|\ddot{\zeta}\|_2$$

$$(a \leq g \tan(\alpha_{\max})) \Rightarrow (\alpha \leq \alpha_{\max})$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \omega_y \\ \omega_x \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\cos(\alpha)}{g} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R}^\top \ddot{\zeta}$$

Jerk

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{\zeta} = \mathbf{R} \frac{t}{m} \mathbf{e}_z + \mathbf{g} \\ \dot{\mathbf{R}} = \mathbf{R} \hat{\omega} \end{cases}$$

$$t = \|\ddot{\zeta} - \mathbf{g}\|_2 = \frac{m g}{\cos(\alpha)}$$

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{\zeta} = \mathbf{R} \hat{\omega} \frac{t}{m} \mathbf{e}_z + \mathbf{R} \frac{\dot{t}}{m} \mathbf{e}_z \\ \dot{t} = m (\mathbf{R} \mathbf{e}_z)^\top \ddot{\zeta} \end{cases}$$

By setting $\omega_z = 0$

$$(j \leq g \omega_{\max}) \Rightarrow (\omega \leq \omega_{\max})$$

Trajectory duration - Optimization problem

Minimum-time trajectory

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta\tau^* &= \arg \min_{\Delta\tau \in \mathbb{R}} \Delta\tau \\ \text{s.t. } &\begin{cases} \Delta\tau > 0 \\ \forall i \in \llbracket 0, n-1 \rrbracket \quad \left\| \mathbf{p}_i^{(1)} \right\|_2 \leq v_{\max} \\ \forall i \in \llbracket 0, n-2 \rrbracket \quad \left\| \mathbf{p}_i^{(2)} \right\|_2 \leq g \tan(\alpha_{\max}) \\ \forall i \in \llbracket 0, n-3 \rrbracket \quad \left\| \mathbf{p}_i^{(3)} \right\|_2 \leq m g \omega_{\max} \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Trajectory duration - Optimization problem

$$\mathbf{P}^{(1)} = \mathbf{P} \frac{1}{\Delta_{\mathcal{T}}} \mathbf{Q}_1^{\top} = \frac{1}{\Delta_{\mathcal{T}}} \tilde{\mathbf{P}}^{(1)}$$

$$\mathbf{P}^{(2)} = \mathbf{P} \frac{1}{\Delta_T^2} \mathbf{Q}_2^\top = \frac{1}{\Delta_T^2} \tilde{\mathbf{P}}^{(2)}$$

$$\mathbf{P}^{(3)} = \mathbf{P} \frac{1}{\Delta_T^3} \mathbf{Q}_3^\top = \frac{1}{\Delta_T^3} \tilde{\mathbf{P}}^{(3)}$$

with $\tilde{\mathbf{P}}^{(l)} = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{Q}_l^\top$, fixed, and

[illegible]

Trajectory duration - Optimization problem

(4) can be written

$$\Delta\tau^* = \arg \min_{\Delta\tau \in \mathbb{R}} \Delta\tau$$
$$\text{s.t.} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Delta\tau \geq \varepsilon \\ \forall i \in \llbracket 0, n-1 \rrbracket \quad \Delta\tau \geq \frac{\|\tilde{\mathbf{p}}_i^{(1)}\|_2}{v_{\max}} \\ \forall i \in \llbracket 0, n-2 \rrbracket \quad \Delta\tau \geq \sqrt{\frac{\|\tilde{\mathbf{p}}_i^{(2)}\|_2}{g \tan(\alpha_{\max})}} \\ \forall i \in \llbracket 0, n-3 \rrbracket \quad \Delta\tau \geq \sqrt[3]{\frac{\|\tilde{\mathbf{p}}_i^{(3)}\|_2}{m g \omega_{\max}}} \end{array} \right.$$

Trajectory duration - Optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\tau^* &= \arg \min_{\Delta\tau \in \mathbb{R}} \Delta\tau \\ \text{s.t. } \mathbf{1}_{3n-2} \Delta\tau &\geq \mathbf{\Delta\tau}_{\min}\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{with } \mathbf{1}_i = \underbrace{(1 \quad 1 \quad \dots \quad 1)}_{i \text{ elements}}^\top$$

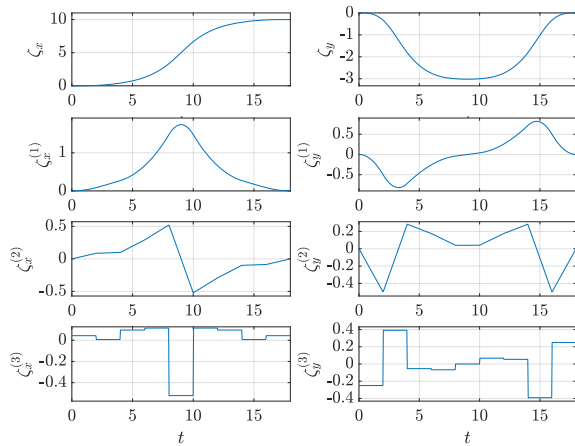
The solution is trivial

$$\Delta\tau^* = \max(\mathbf{\Delta\tau}_{\min})$$

Trajectory duration - Optimization problem

$$n_1 = n_2 = n_3 = 0, \sigma = 0.8$$

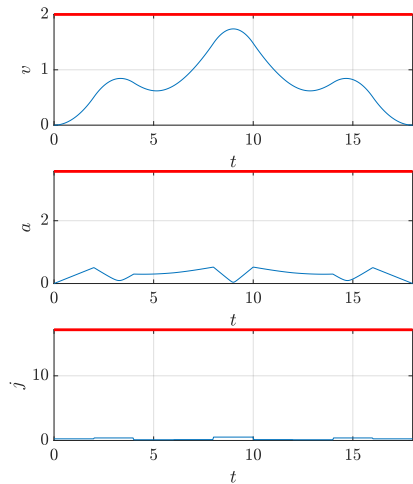
Trajectory Derivatives



Trajectory duration - Optimization problem

$$n_1 = n_2 = n_3 = 0, \sigma = 0.8$$

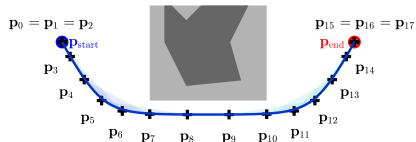
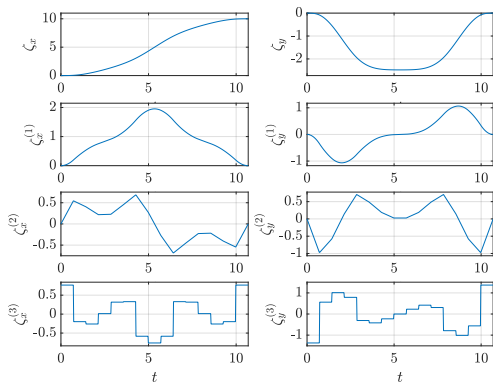
Constraints



Trajectory duration - Optimization problem

$$n_1 = n_2 = n_3 = 2, \sigma = 0.5$$

Trajectory Derivatives



Conclusion

- Simple trajectory generator satisfying the specifications
 - Extremely fast computation ($< \text{ms}$)
-
- Conservative
 - Simplistic (2D, no disturbances, known convex NFZ, simplified model etc.)